

**2020 South Dakota State Historical Society History Conference**  
**“Looking Back on South Dakota History with 20/20 Vision”**  
**Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center, Pierre, SD**  
**Schedule**

**Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

5:30 – **Registration Open**  
7:00 p.m. Ramkota

7:00 p.m. ***Women’s Suffrage in South Dakota***  
Ruth Page Jones  
Cultural Heritage Center

Ruth Page Jones will present an overview of the South Dakota suffrage story within the context of the national story. Jones is a historian from Waukesha, Wisconsin who is currently pursuing her interest in discovering and documenting the local histories of communities and women in South Dakota.

**Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 a.m.- **Registration Open**  
5 p.m.

8:15 a.m. **Opening Remarks**  
Jay D. Vogt

8:30 a.m. **Keynote Address - *20/20 Vision: What We Know, What We Don’t Know, and What We Think We Know***  
Benjamin F. Jones

9:30 a.m. **Vendor Break**

10:00 a.m. ***Mattie Goff Newcombe: World Champion Trick Rider and Philanthropist***  
Kalyn Eulberg

Born in White Owl, Mattie Goff Newcombe participated in her first rodeo as a bronc rider in 1921 at the age of 15. She soon added trick riding and relay racing and was named as the World’s Champion Trick Rider and held the title of “All Around Cowgirl.” She was inducted into the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in 1961 as a Charter Member, into the South Dakota Hall of Fame in 1989, and into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center in 1994.

11:00 a.m. ***George Philip: Orphan, Immigrant, Cowboy, Lawyer, Man of Letters***  
Cathie Draine

George Philip emigrated from Scotland as a young man to escape a harsh apprenticeship. In 1899, he arrived at the home of his uncle, James ("Scotty") Philip. Philip rode as a cowboy for his uncle for 4 years during the brief open range cowboy era. In 1903 Philip entered law school in Michigan. He returned to South Dakota to practice law in Fort Pierre, Philip, and Rapid City.

12:00 p.m. **Trustees Lunch**

1:00 p.m. ***Perseverance: Women of the South Dakota Suffrage Movement***

Liz Almlie, Ruth Page Jones, Kelly Kirk

Focus will be on prominent suffragists from South Dakota such as Alice Pickler, Mamie Pyle, Alice Daly, and others.

2:30 p.m. **Vendor Break**

3:00 p.m. ***Benjamin Reifel's Philosophy of Indian Affairs***

Sean J. Flynn

Throughout his earlier career with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and as the first Lakota to serve in Congress, Reifel worked to bring economic success to the reservations and to South Dakota as a whole, dividing his time between agriculture policy and Indian affairs. A bilingual member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe of South Dakota, Reifel often found his ideas challenged by American Indian activists. He advocated for his people to become self-reliant citizens, not by abandoning traditional values, but through education and integration.

4:00 p.m. ***Archaeologists T.H. Lewis & W.H. Over***

Renee M. Boen

Land surveyor and amateur archaeologist **T.H. Lewis** was the first to document many thousands of mounds, landforms, rock formations, and earthworks as part of the extensive late 19<sup>th</sup> century Northwestern Archaeological Survey of the upper plains. In 1889 this work included documenting the Snake Butte Turtle Effigy near Pierre and the mapping of Blood Run, an Oneota village in SE South Dakota and NW Iowa.

**W.H. Over** was a professor at USD who studied natural sciences and paleontology. His later interest in the human past led to expeditions to the Missouri River and documented extant villages. During two field seasons, he found and recorded 156 sites and laid groundwork for the future of archaeology on the Missouri River and in the Dakotas. Over served first as the Assistant Curator and then full Curator for the University Museum, now the W.H. Over Museum. He modernized the museum and made unique contributions to archaeology, paleontology, and the natural sciences.

5:30-7 **Reception**  
American Legion Cabin

### **Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 a.m. – **Registration Open**  
12:00 p.m.

8:30 a.m. ***From Owned to Landowners: The African American Homesteader Community in Sully County***

Jacob K. Friefeld

The Blair Colony, also known as The Sully County Colored Colony, became a haven for African-Americans seeking a road out of the racially oppressive Deep South in the late 1800s. Credit for the thriving rural neighborhood goes largely to Norvel Blair

and his family. The colony had as many as 200 members and was a bustling community for over 50 years with a number of locally prominent families. Hard times in the 1930s drove many to larger cities. By the 1950s only a handful of people remained in the area.

9:30 a.m.     **Vendor Break**

10:00 a.m.     ***Stan Adelstein and the Jewish Presence in South Dakota***

Eric Steven Zimmer

Born in 1931 in Sioux City, Iowa, former State Senator Stanford Adelstein attended school in Rapid City, South Dakota. He is a well-known businessman, politician and philanthropist in South Dakota and nationally. He served in both the South Dakota House of Representatives and the South Dakota Senate. He was an appointed member to the National Council on Economic Opportunity, the Advisory Council for the Ninth Federal Reserve Bank in Minneapolis, and the South Dakota Advisory Committee for the U.S. Civil Rights Committee.

Eric Steven Zimmer is the author of the book *The Question is Why?: A Jewish Life in South Dakota*, which tells Adelstein's story of family, faith, business, politics and philanthropy.

11:00 a.m.     ***Indigenous Feminist: Zitkala-Ša/Gertrude Simmons Bonnin's Fight for Suffrage and Self-Determination***

Cathleen D. Cahill

Yankton Dakota Sioux writer, editor, translator, musician, educator, and political activist; became secretary for the Society of American Indians and moved to Washington DC to lobby for the organization; "1926 she founded the National Council of American Indians which identified land and resource issues facing Indian people; was instrumental in persuading The General Federation of Women's Clubs to form their Indian Welfare Committee"

12-1:30 p.m.     **Awards Luncheon**